

### REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-15, and 17-21 are pending in the application, and stand rejected. Claims 10 and 22-35 have been canceled from the application as being drawn to a non-elected invention, without prejudice or disclaimer as to the filing of one or more divisional or continuation applications. Claims 6 and 16 have been canceled from the application, and the subject matter of these claims incorporated into the claims from which they depended.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide that the second component includes paper having a cellulose ester incorporated therein, support for which can be found, for example, in original claim 6, and at page 8, lines 30-31 of the application. Claim 7 has been amended to provide that the paper of claim 1 further comprises cellulose, support for which can be found, for example, at page 6, lines 22-23 of the application. Claim 12 has been amended to provide that the cellulose ester-containing substrate comprises paper having a cellulose ester incorporated therein, support for which can be found, for example, in original claim 16, and at page 8, lines 30-31 of the application.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended contain no new matter, and respectfully request entry and favorable consideration.

Claims 1-9 and 11 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gallagher, U.S. Pat. No. 3,320,110. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

It was asserted in the Office Action that Gallagher discloses, *inter alia*, providing a cellulose acetate paper, and exposing a side of the paper to a plasticizing solvent. Applicants respectfully disagree. Gallagher is seen instead to disclose the use of "conventional filter wrap paper" (col. 3, lines 55-56) which may be coated with a cellulose ester-triacetin coating composition (col. 2, lines 19-35). There is no teaching or suggestion of a cellulose acetate paper, nor of exposing a side of a cellulose acetate paper to a plasticizing solvent, as asserted in the Office Action. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the rejection as to original claim 1 is overcome.

Applicants note that original claim 1 is amended herein to provide that the second component includes paper having a cellulose ester incorporated therein, a feature neither disclosed nor fairly suggested in Gallagher. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is clearly patentable in view of Gallagher, and respectfully request that the rejection based on Gallagher be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ruback, GB 848,429. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

It was asserted in the Office Action that Ruback discloses, *inter alia*, the steps of providing a paper, and exposing a side of the paper to a plasticizing solvent. Applicants respectfully submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of a second component, which may comprise paper (as in original claim 6), that includes a cellulose ester (as provided in original claim 1), nor has Ruback been cited for such a teaching. Because this feature of original claim 1 is neither disclosed nor fairly suggested in Ruback, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection as to original claim 1 is overcome for at least this reason.

Applicants note that original claim 1 as amended herein provides that the second component includes paper having a cellulose ester incorporated therein, a feature neither disclosed nor fairly suggested in Ruback. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claim 1, as amended, is clearly patentable in view of Ruback, and respectfully request that the rejection based on Ruback be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 and 11-21 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cobb, U.S. Pat. No. 3,025,861, in view of Gallagher and optionally Cobb et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,106,501. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration.

Because claims 1 and 12 have been amended, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection as to these original claims is now moot.

Applicants note that claim 1, as amended, provides that the second component includes paper having a cellulose ester incorporated therein. Similarly, claim 12 has been amended to provide that the cellulose ester-containing substrate comprises paper

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having a cellulose ester incorporated therein. Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, Cobb '861 is not seen to teach an acetate paper. Rather, Cobb '861 refers in Example IV to an acetate sheet, which is described in the sentence introducing Example IV as a "plastic wrapper." Applicants therefore respectfully submit that neither Cobb '861, nor Gallagher, nor Cobb et al. '501, teaches or suggests the features of independent claims 1 and 12, as amended, for example a paper having cellulose ester incorporated therein, and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn, and the claims allowed.

In summary, Applicants believe the application to be in condition for allowance, and allowance at the Examiner's convenience is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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20 June 2006  
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Date

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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Karen Taylor

6/23/2006  
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Date